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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,328	03/01/2002	Jeffrey E. Devall	3177-69461	3042

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

EXAMINER

MICHALSKY, GERALD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3753

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/087,328

Applicant(s)

DEVALL, JEFFREY E.

Examiner

Gerald A. Michalsky

Art Unit

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[Handwritten signature]

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-21, 23-26 and 28-34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 22 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The declaration filed on 22 January 2004 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the DeCapua et al reference.

The DeCapua et al reference is a U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication of a pending or patented application that claims the rejected invention. An affidavit or declaration is inappropriate under 37 CFR 1.131(a) when the reference is claiming the same patentable invention, see MPEP § 2306. If the reference and this application are not commonly owned, the reference can only be overcome by establishing priority of invention through interference proceedings. See MPEP Chapter 2300 for information on initiating interference proceedings. If the reference and this application are commonly owned, the patent may be disqualified as prior art by an affidavit or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130. See MPEP § 718.

The evidence submitted is insufficient to establish a conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the DeCapua et al reference. While conception is the mental part of the inventive act, it must be capable of proof, such as by demonstrative evidence or by a complete disclosure to another. Conception is more than a vague idea of how to solve a problem. The requisite means themselves and their interaction must also be comprehended. See *Mergenthaler v. Scudder*, 1897 C.D. 724, 81 O.G. 1417 (D.C. Cir. 1897). Applicant has submitted a drawing of the structure illustrated in Figure 14 of the DeCapua et al reference itself. Submission of a copy of Figure 14 of the DeCapua et al reference itself establishes nothing with respect to the instant application.

The evidence submitted is insufficient to establish diligence from a date prior to the date of reduction to practice of the DeCapua et al reference to either a constructive reduction to practice or an actual reduction to practice. Even if applicant did establish conception prior to the effective filing date of the DeCapua et al reference, no diligence has been established or even asserted.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-13, 22, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DeCapua et al (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0112757). DeCapua et al and this application have different inventive entities. DeCapua et al is entitled to benefit of the filing date of February 16, 2001, which is the filing date of the provisional application of which priority is claimed. Therefore, the effective filing date of the DeCapua et al under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is February 16, 2001. Claims 1-3, 7, and 12 are anticipated by Figures 10-14 of DeCapua et al. Claims 4-6, 8-11, 13, 22, and 27 are anticipated by Figure 14 of DeCapua et al.

Where the reference U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication claims the same patentable invention, an affidavit or declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 is inappropriate. See Section 715 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.

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"A 37 CFR 1.131 affidavit is ineffective to overcome a United States patent or patent application publication, not only where there is a verbatim correspondence between claims of the application and of the patent, but also where there is no patentable distinction between the respective claims." See Section 715.05 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. Applicant has pointed out at the bottom of page 2 of the remarks filed 22 January 2004 that there is no verbatim correspondence between the claims herein and the claims of DeCapua et al. However, declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 is ineffective where there is no patentable distinction between the respective claims.

"A U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication that anticipates the claimed subject matter cannot be disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) or 37 CFR 1.130 or 37 CFR 1.131." See Section 718 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.

4. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

5. Claims 1-13, 22, and 27 herein are further provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 11-12, 16, and 18 of copending Application No. 10/079,163. This is a provisional double patenting rejection

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since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented. Since claims 1-13, 22, and 27 herein are readable on the embodiments claimed in claims 11-12, 16, and 18 of Serial No. 10/079,163, and claims 11-12, 16, and 18 of Serial No. 10/079,163 are readable on the embodiments claimed herein, claims 1-13, 22, and 27 herein and claims 11-12, 16, and 18 of Serial No. 10/079,163 are in conflict and are drawn to the same invention. See Chart III-A of Section 804 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure with the route labeled "Commonly Assigned – Different Inventive Entities". Applicant has pointed out at the bottom of page 2 of the remarks filed 22 January 2004, that there is no verbatim correspondence between the above sets of claims. However, there need not be a verbatim correspondence for statutory double patenting. Also, slight differences in claim language do not necessarily preclude statutory double patenting.

6. Claims 14-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 16-21, 23-26, and 28-34 are allowed.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

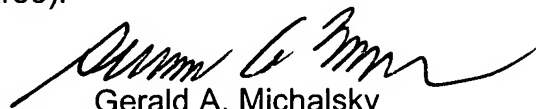
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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald A. Michalsky whose telephone number is (703) 308-1049. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 AM - 2 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Scherbel can be reached on (703) 308-1272. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gerald A. Michalsky
Primary Examiner
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